

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING DECEMBER 3: NATO FORCE PLANNING 1975-1979

REF: A. STATE 264652(NOTAL)

B. USNATO 6676(NOTAL)

C. USNATO 6556(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 3 DPC APPROVED ITS REPORT ON NATO 1975-1979 FORCE PLAN (DPC/D(74)21) FOR SUBMISSIONS TO MINISTERS. AMBASSADOR BRUCE(US) SAID INCLUSION OF WORD "CONVENTIONAL" BEFORE "FORCES" IN PARA 70 (OLD PARA 68) WOULD ALLOW DPC TO GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO NATO'S PRESENT CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES, BUT SINCE DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL DISCUSS CONVENTIONAL BALANCE QUESTION DURING THEIR CONSIDERATION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, US DOES NOT INSIST ON INCLUSION OF WORD "CONVENTIONALZ IN PARA 70. END SUMMARY.

1. SYG LUNS, IN INTRODUCING DECEMBER 3 AGENDA ITEM ON NATO FORCE PLANNING, 1975-1979, DREW DPC ATTENTION TO GENERAL REPORT ON COUNTRY FORCE PLANS (DPC/D(74)21). SYG NOTED DPC WAS NOT ABLE TO FINALIZE GENERAL REPORT UNTIL DRC COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF COUNTRY CONFIDENTIAL

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FORCE PLANS-THE LAST OF WHICH TOOK PLACE ONLY ONE WEEK AGO. IN CITING REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS IN THE GENERAL REPORT, HE SAID DEFENSE REVIEW WAS OVERSHADOWED BY A NUMBER OF LARGE UNCERTAINTIES, INCLUDING:

A) LONG TERM EFFECT OF INFLATION,

B) MAJOR RESTRUCTURING PLANS IN AT LEAST THREE COUNTRIES (ITALY, NETHERLANDS AND UK) AND PERHAPS A FOURTH (CANADA), AND

C) DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD.

AMBASSADOR MENZIES QUICKLY REJOINED THAT CANADIAN REVIEW DOES NOT ENCOMPASS MAJOR RESTRUCTURING.

2. SYG SAID DPC MUST DISCUSS ONE PARTICULAR POINT: ONE DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE THE WORD "CONVENTIONAL" BEFORE FORCES IN SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 70(OLD PARA 68). HE THEN ASKED PERMREPS TO COMMENT ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT POINT AS WELL AS ANY OTHER POINTS THEY WISH TO RAISE.

3. AMBASSADOR BRUCE SAID US NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THAT ALLIANCE IS MAKING PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING FORCE IMPROVEMENTS DURING PLANNING PERIOD. RE SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 70, HE NOTED SENTENCE WAS DRAWN FROM THE "CONCLUSIONS" PARA (PARA 16) OF MC REPORT ON THE FORCE PLAN, WHICH INCLUDES WORD "CONVENTIONAL" BEFORE "FORCES". IN US VIEW, INCLUSION OF "CONVENTIONAL" BEFORE "FORCES" WOULD ALLOW DPC TO GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO NATO'S PRESENT CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES, AS THE MC HAS DONE IN ITS REPORT. HE ADDED IF ALLIANCE DOES NOT ACCORD APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION TO ROLE AND CAPABILITIES OF NATO'S CONVENTIONAL FORCES, US GOVERNMENT WILL FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO RESIST PRESSURES TO WITHDRAW AT LEAST SOME OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF US FORCES IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, SINCE DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL DISCUSS THE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE IN SOME DETAIL DURING THEIR CONSIDERATION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, US DOES NOT INSIST THAT DPC RETAIN THE WORD "CONVENTIONAL" IN PARA 70. HE CONCLUDED THAT WHILE HIS AUTHORITIES FIND THE OVERALL TONE OF THE DRAFT REPORT UNDULY PESSIMISTIC, US CAN AGREE TO FORWARD THE REPORT TO MINISTERS.

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4. SYG OBSERVED THAT COUNTRY WHICH STRONGLY FAVORED INCLUSION OF CONTESTED WORD IN PARA 70 NOW AGREES TO DROP IT. UPON RECEIVING CONFIRMATION THAT SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 70 WOULD NOT INCLUDE WORD "CONVENTIONAL" BEFORE "FORCES", DE STAERCCKE (BELGIUM) PAID "HOMMAGE" TO AMBASSADOR BRUCE. SYG QUIPPED THAT AMBASSADOR BRUCE IS OFF TO A GOOD START AS HE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED "HOMMAGE" FROM THE DOYEN.

5. IN RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTED REQUEST FROM AMBASSADOR HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS), DPC AGREED TO REPLACE THE WORDS "ADDITIONAL EFFORT" WITH "EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT" IN RECOMMENDATION (H) (NEW PARA 72), OLD PARA 70). HARTOGH ALSO SAID SUMMARY ANNEX OF EXTENT TO WHICH FORCE GOALS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IS MEANINGLESS BECAUSE ONE CAN

NOT COMPARE PROGRESS OF A FORCE GOAL CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT WITH ONE CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL GAS MASKS; THUS HE URGED DPC TO DROP REFERENCE TO SUMMARY ANNEX (PARA 10). SYG NOTED ANNEX ADDRESSES PRIORITY ONE FORCE GOALS AND DPC SHOULD RETAIN PARA 10 SINCE ANNEX CONTAINED EXPLANATORY FOOTNOTE TO EFFECT THAT ALL FORCE GOALS DO NOT COST THE SAME.

6. HARTOGH AND SVART (DENMARK) PROPOSED MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRY CHAPTERS. SYG INDICATED CHANGES WILL BE SETTLED OUTSIDE OF COMMITTEE.

7. HENCE DPC APPROVED GENERAL REPORT ON COUNTRY FORCE PLANS (DPC/D(74)21) FOR SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS ON DECEMBER 10 FOR ADOPTION AS NATO 1975-1979 FORCE PLAN. BRUCE

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